

K. Sallustius

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hardly worth while. I have given, to put you in mind
of the indignities you have received of late Years, and the ill

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treatment the private Affections of your Privileges have met
with from some of the Nobles, when we are now reduced

to low, that a few Great and Ill Men govern us, whose Right
it is and whose Right it is to hold the Scales of Justice

to have kept the Scales in Justice. However, for my part, I have
reluctant to make war upon this powerful and pernicious Cabal

and will use that Liberty, which, as a Freeman of Rome, I am
legally intitled to, to say what I think of the present

be understood to excite you to any kind of Force: No; let
us fight on with their own Weapons. The same Engines

which they have made use of to raise themselves
will be used to bring them down. I thought we had

to pull him down. Not long since we thought we had
reason to complain of the plundering the publick Money

and of the exorbitant Riches and excessive Power of some
of the Nobles, who are to be

have again work'd themselves into Power. They have their
Portresses, their Government of Provinces, and their Tri-

umphal Processions: They first; they domineer; and treat
us with scorn and insolence, as if they thought it was

only, but an Honour, to have cheated the Commonwealth.
I have, my Countrymen, our purchased Liberty

THE present Circumstances of our Affairs, the
Power of the prevailing Faction, your tame Sub-

mission, the Loss of all Justice, and the Danger of
speaking Truth, are such Discouragements, that I

should be silent, as well as others, at this time, if my Con-
cern for my Country were not above all other Considerations.

fiction, Violent, and Unforgiving; Determin'd, by all Me-
thods,

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'Tis hardly worth while, *Fellow-Citizens*, to put you in mind of the Indignitys you have receiv'd of late Years, and the ill Treatment the bravest Assertors of your Privileges have met with, from some of the Nobility; when We are now reduc'd so low, that a few Great and Ill Men govern Us, whose Right it is, and whose chief Business it should be, to watch and keep such Miscreants in Awe. However, for my part, I have resolv'd to make war upon this powerful and pernicious *Cabal*, and will use that Liberty, which, as a *Freeman of Rome*, I am legally intitled to; but 'tis in your power only, to make my good Endeavours effectually serviceable to you. I would not be understood to excite you to any kind of Force: No; Let Us fight 'em with their own Weapons. The same Engines which they have always made use of to raise themselves, will, I doubt not, if rightly employ'd, even yet be sufficient to pull 'em down. Not long since, we thought we had reason to complain of the squandering the publick Money, and of the exorbitant Riches and excessive Power of some particular Persons; but now those very Persons are so far from being contented to go off with *Impunity*, that they have again work'd themselves into Power. They have their Pontificates, their Governments of Provinces, and their Triumphal Processions: They strut; They domineer; and treat Us with such Scorn and Insolence, as if they thought it not Robbery, but an Honour, to have cheated the Commonwealth. Our Slaves, *My Countrymen*, our purchas'd Slaves have Spirit enough to disobey the unjust Commands of their Masters: Shall we, who were born Free, stand still and patiently suffer the Yoke to be put about our Necks? But pray let us consider a little what sort of Men these are, who have thus seiz'd upon the Government? Why, they are Men of evil Principles and worse Practices, Designing, Proud, Rapacious, Violent, and Unforgiving; Determin'd, by all Methods,

thods, to prosecute their Interest, and postpone to that all
 Regards to Religion and Honour. And this Society, what
 shall I call it? This *Cabal* are firmly and strongly united
 by that wicked Tye, of having all been involv'd in the
 same or in equal Crimes! However, if we had been as
 careful to preserve our Libertys, as they have been in-
 dustrious to wrest 'em from us, our Constitution had not
 been so shock'd and unsettled as 'tis now; nor would so
 many great Posts of the Commonwealth have been in the
 Hands of the most Forward, instead of the most Deserving.
 Our Ancestors ventur'd their Lives and their Fortunes, to
 preserve their Privileges, and to keep up a proper Balance
 in the Government; and shall we not stir one Step, not
 dare to run the least risque, to deliver down those Privi-
 leges to our Posterity, which we have receiv'd from those
 Ancestors? Surely, we ought the more resolutely to con-
 tend for 'em, as 'tis more dishonourable to lose 'em, than
 never to have had 'em. But, perhaps, it may be ask'd,
 What is it proper for us to do in this Situation? Shall
 we Address? Shall we Impeach? I will not take upon Me
 to prescribe to you a particular Method of Proceeding; but
 I will be bold to say, That some Stand ought immediately
 to be made, some stop, if possible, to be put to the grow-
 ing Tyranny of this Cabal; that the Commons of *Rome* may
 never have this Reproach, That they, who us'd to oppose
 and condemn the least irregular Step, or Encroachment,
 ev'n in their *Kings*, now lie down, easy and satisfy'd, un-
 der the heaviest and most arbitrary Oppression of *Five*
 or Six of their own *Fellow-Subjects*! If we have not Spirit
 enough to rouse our selves upon this important Occasion,
 our Condition is very wretched, and almost desperate:
 for whilst we are subdu'd at Home, faster than we con-
 quer Abroad; whilst no Man is allow'd a Place in the Se-

the House, that is not thought, by these Masters, less likely to defend the Peoples Libertys, than to give up his own; whilst hardly any one can be secure from Punishment, but he who deserves it; whilst we give such immense Taxes without Appropriation, and let them be distributed without Account; whilst we have not Courage enough e'en to own our Fears; whilst we are forc'd to magnify successful Blunders: In a word, whilst we lavish our Treasure, and husband the War, a Man may venture to prophesy, That unless the Gods are pleas'd to work a Miracle for Us at Home, as they have done many Abroad, the Time is not far off, in which this antient and noble Frame of Government will be totally demolish'd; and We, that have been so often Conquerors, shall be no longer Freemen.

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*London Reprinted 1708 by the parliament in the
absence of the Convention in Dispute & all the
Arbitrators of Conscience a point in all Europe
but what was if the old Catholic sense of a
edition & forth*

ing Tyranny of this Case: that the Commons of this
never have this Reproach, That they, who used to censure
and condemn the least irregular step, or Enchroachment,
even in their Kings, now sit down, easy and satisfied, un-
der the heaviest and most arbitrary Oppression of those
or six of their own Fellow-Subjects: If we have not spirit
enough to rouse our selves upon this important Occasion,
our Condition is very wretched, and almost desperate:
for whilst we are subdued at Home, faster than we con-
quer Abroad; whilst no Man is allow'd a Place in the

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